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THE FOUNDING YEAR OF THE MEIJI ERA.
MEN OF THE SHOGUNATE.
YOU FOOL!
THIS LAND NOW BELONGS TO THE RESTORATION GOVERNMENT.
GET OUT OF HERE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE THESE PEASANTS.
DAD...
SLUMP
THESE GUYS...
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO US?
WHO ARE THEY...?

SHOULD GO TO HELL...
...HUH?
SOUZOU SAGARA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING PLAYING AROUND IN THIS VILLAGE?
YOU...
YOU BASTARD...

KNOW YOUR PLACE!
ANYWAY, THERE'S NO WAY THE PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE TRYING TO INVADE THIS LAND!
W-WHO IS HE...? A NEW RECRUIT IN THE RESTORATION GOVERNMENT...?
REACH
UNLESS I TRY
I WON'T KNOW
THE CODE FOR THE REDUCTION OF LAND TAX
AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT:
THE TERRITORIES THAT OBEY THE GOVERNMENT
WILL HAVE THE BURDEN OF THEIR LAND TAX HALVED.
AND SO...

BONK!
OW...
....
IT'S OBVIOUS WHO THE PEOPLE WILL SIDE WITH,
ISN'T IT?
GET OUT!
WE WON'T DO WHAT THE SHOGUNATE SAYS!
WAAAH
L-LET'S RETREAT!
UGH...
THUD
THUD
THUD
chatter
chatter
chatter
YOUR ACTIONS ALWAYS IMPRESS ME.
I'LL GIVE YOUR WHOLE TROOP A REWARD, SAGARA-KUN.
...
WELL, WELL DONE!

HMM? WHAT ABOUT IT?
YOU KILLED THAT KID'S FATHER, DIDN'T YOU?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'VE DONE?! YOU MAGGOT!
WHOOSH
KER-POW
EHHHH?!
Shh
Stagger
EH?!
EH?

pat
pat
I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T GET HERE SOONER...
REACH
Shock
YOU YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
I JOINED YOU BECAUSE IT WAS A CONVENIENT WAY TO REALISE MY AMBITION.
I WON'T FORGIVE ANYONE WHO LAYS A HAND ON THE PEOPLE.
THUD
SHUT UP.
Here we go!
THUMP

THE SHOGUNATE AND THE RESTORATION GOVERNMENT
SHOULD BOTH GO TO HELL.
OKAY, OKAY. THAT WAS SCARY.
UMPH
THUD
THUD
CAPTAIN SAGARA!
We finally caught up with you!
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!
HE DROPPED ME?!
THROW
UGH!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THAT'S NOT A GIRL.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER KIDS ARE BOYS OR GIRLS.
SIGH
LET'S GO.
Okay
WAIT!

WE'RE THE SEKIHO ARMY.
NEXT TIME, CALL ME "CAPTAIN".
THE GREAT AMBITION THAT BURNS INSIDE THIS RED HEART.
YOU DAMN KID.
NAOE
SEKI-SHIN

COMMANDED BY SOUZOU SAGARA
THE FIRST SEKIHO TROOP,
AND KEPT ON MOVING.
THEY DETER MINEDLY MARCHED FORWARD
TO REDUCE THE BURDEN ON THE PEOPLE WHO SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THE LAND TAX,
THEY ADVANCED LIKE SURGING WAVES AND SPREAD THE NEWS OF THE CODE FOR THE REDUCTION OF LAND TAX.
IS IN THAT VILLAGE...
THE SEKIHO ARMY
THEN...
SHIMOSUWA

I'LL GET TO SEE HIM.

DOOM!
WHY...?
W-WHAT'S THIS...?
...!!?
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
H-HEY! WHY ARE THEY BEING HELD CAPTIVE? THEY'RE THE SEKIHO ARMY, RIGHT?!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

THEY'RE A FALSE LOYALIST ARMY.
THEY TRICKED US BY SPREADING AROUND SOME FAKE LAW CALLED "THE CODE FOR THE REDUCTION OF LAND TAX".
THE TAX REDUCTIONS NEVER HAPPENED IN THE END...
THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF LIARS! THEY GOT OUR HOPES UP!
YOU'RE LYING!
I SAW THE LETTER WITH MY OWN EYES!
BECAUSE THEY...
THEY SAVED ME...
THEY'RE NOT A FALSE LOYALIST ARMY!
WELL, IT'S TOO LATE NOW.

THEY'RE ALL GOING TO BE EXECUTED TOMORROW.
NO WAY...
IT SERVES THEM RIGHT!
WAAA

RUSTLE
CAP-TAIN
UH
WAKE UP, CAPTAIN
...WHEN WAS I BORN?
ARE YOU HALF-ASLEEP?
I'M "HEIHACHI". I DIDN'T TELL YOU THEN,
BUT DO YOU REMEM-BER ME?
UMM...
YOU'RE THE KID FROM THAT TIME...
.....

I FOLLOWED YOU TO THIS VILLAGE AND THIS IS WHAT I SEE. WHAT'S GOING ON?
EVERYONE'S SAYING THAT YOU'RE A FALSE LOYALIST ARMY.
BUT THE VILLAGERS DON'T SEEM LIKE THEY'RE LYING.
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU'RE WRONG

WE WERE BETRAYED!
BY THE RESTORATION GOVERNMENT!
EVEN THOUGH WE SPREAD THE NEWS OF THE LAND TAX REDUCTION
THEY JUST GOT THE CITIZENS ON THEIR SIDE AND THEN BLAMED THE SEKIHO ARMY, INTENDING TO DESTROY US.
THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF INTRODUCING IT FROM THE START.
EVERY-THING'S OVER!
WE'RE GOING TO BE EXECUTED!
...WELL, THAT'S HOW WE GOT CAUGHT.

WE JUST WANT TO CHANGE THE COUNTRY.
WE'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT WAY, AND ALWAYS WILL.
HE'S BEEN CAUGHT AND KNOWS HE'S GOING TO BE EXECUTED...
WHY...
WHY DO YOU LOOK AS IF
THERE'S STILL HOPE?

BECAUSE I BELIEVE
IN MY STRENGTH.
I DON'T WANT A WORLD WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE MANIPULATED AND SADDENED
I'M GOING TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY
BY THE RESTORATION GOVERNMENT.
MY AMBITION WON'T END WITH THIS.

WAAAH!
SNAP
EHHH?!
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO TELL YOU WHY I CAME THIS FAR TO FIND THE SEKIHO ARMY!
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!
AH!
snap
snap
snap
DON'T CALL ME THAT, CALL ME "HEIHACHI-SAMA"!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU DAMN KID...?!

I WANT TO FIGHT ALONG-SIDE YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CHANGE THIS COUNTRY, SOUZOU SAGARA!
MY EYES ARE NEVER WRONG!
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE OF PEOPLE TO LET THINGS END HERE!
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO SET YOU FREE!
POINT

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
pat
CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN! WE CAN GET OUT THIS WAY! HURRY, WHILE WE STILL CAN...
LET'S GO, SOUZOU!
THAT SMELL...
TAKE COVER!
BANG
EH...
BANG
BANG
BANG
UH...
UGH...
BANG
WAH...

IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE BLAME FOR OUR CRIME AND DIE,
THE PEOPLE WILL DIRECT THEIR ANGER TOWARD US...
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL LET YOU ESCAPE.
SHIVER
CAP-TAIN!
NO WAY...
toh
TAKE THAT KID AND GET AWAY FROM HERE!
WE'LL HOLD THEM BACK SOMEHOW!
...HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
DASH

I-IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE ON THAT MANY PEOPLE!
WE'VE ALL GOT TO ESCAPE
...ALRIGHT.
EH...
SHOCK
GOT IT?
MAKE SURE TO COME AFTER ME.

THUD
IT'S NO GOOD, SOUZOU!
THEY'LL GET KILLED!
WAAOO
AH
...OKAY.
SOUZOU!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
AFTER THEM! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

I'M GOING TO THE GATE.
!
THIS GUY...
HEY!
STOP THAT!
ruffle
ruffle
ruffle
...WHAT? DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
BUT!
I...
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME THE WAY I'LL BE FINE NOW YOU GO HIDE SOMEWHERE

I CAN'T LET THEIR HOPES GO TO WASTE I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
EVEN IF I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
BECAUSE I'M A MEMBER OF THE SEKIHO ARMY.
I MAY JUST BE A KID TO YOU,
BUT I'M GOING TO HELP.
SEE YOU LATER, KID.
WAIT.

I'M... NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
YOU'RE...
RIGHT..
.....

BANG
YOU CAN DIE WITH THAT KID!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE HIDING!
KID!
THUD

stagger
...AH, THAT'S RIGHT
SHOCK
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE FIRST TO PULL THE TRIGGER, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU WERE PROBABLY READY TO DO IT.
WOOSH
CREAK
Ugh.
DASH
CAP-TAIN!
CLANG

TCH.
BANG
ダン
BANG
ダダン
BANG
GAH!
Slam!
EEK!
GRAB
HAH...
THUD
THUD
GYAA...
AHH
THUD
EEK...
AHH...
ドン

YOU...
THUD
MONSTER...
WHOOSH
DASH

EH?! THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING THIS WAY!
NO.
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT AHEAD, THE GATE WILL BE THERE. WE CAN LEAVE THE VILLAGE THAT WAY
NO, THAT GATE IS LOCKED
UH...
ARE YOU OKAY, KID?!
SOU-ZOU...
YEAH. I JUST SCRATCHED MY ARM. IT REALLY HURTS...

I KNEW IIIIIT!
IT'S OKAY.
HUH?
I'LL THROW!
... EH? WAIT A MINUTE I'VE GOT A REALLY BAD FEELING... HEY, SOUZOU-SAN...
CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS A LITTLE MORE..?
THUD THUD THUD THUD
MAKE SURE YOU LAND PROPERLY...
THERE YOU GO!

WHOA...YOU COMPLETELY FAILED AT LANDING.
You're so easy to understand.
SMACK
UGH!
SOU-ZOU...
HURRY UP AND COME HERE...
NO...
WHAT'S THIS...? IT'S NOT MY BLOOD...
GAAAH!
HEY YOU'RE EXAGGE-RATING
My arm! My arm!
HMM?
No way...
DRIP
DRIP
AH.

THIS IS THE END FOR ME.
HEY.
WERE YOU LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D CHANGE THIS COUNTRY?!
NO.
WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE SEKIHO ARMY, RIGHT? DON'T GIVE UP!

I'VE DECIDED TO TRUST YOU WITH THAT.
WHA...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT.
YOU CAN.
CRASH
I CAN'T!
YOU CAN.

AHH!
BONK
YOU'LL TAKE MY PLACE
IN CHANGING THIS COUNTRY.

SO YOU RUN AND DON'T LOOK BACK.
I'LL HOLD THEM BACK HERE.
IT'S A PRESENT. TAKE IT.
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, CAPTAIN.
GRIP
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...
huff
I MIGHT HAVE MADE HIM CRY.
huff
TCH... HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THAT...?
huff

I'M THE CAPTAIN.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING.
THIS THING IS JUST
A PIECE OF CAKE TO ME.

JUST YOU WATCH.

THUD
THUD
THUD
HAS HE GONE...?

WE'RE GOING TO GET RID OF YOU. THAT'S THE LAST ACT OF COMPASSION THE RESTORATION GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE YOU.
CAPTAIN OF THE SEKIHO ARMY, SOUZOU SAGARA
THUD
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HAVE YOU GOT ANY LAST WORDS?

HUFF
HUFF
EVEN IF I DID, I WOULDN'T TELL YOU
I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE
HUFF
HUFF
BECAUSE
I'VE GIVEN
EVERY-THING TO HIM
HUFF
HUFF

RIGHT, HEIHACHI?

1868

All eight members of the
Sekiho Army first troop,
commanded by Souzou Sagara,

were executed at Shimosuwa.

CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
THUD
Several years after the Sekishin Incident, a rebellion broke out all over the country.
And during that time, the people suffered

HMM...
So you do have something else...

+P
Toe

Come on!
How many times has it been now? Bring out something you can use to pay your land taxes!
It's true! We're not hiding anything! This really is all we have.!

Please stop...
COME HERE!
STOP.

CLANK
AREN'T YOU PICKING THE WRONG PERSON TO STRIKE?
WHO ARE YOU?!
CAW
CAW
Y-YOU BASTARD...

I'LL BE
YOUR OPPO-NENT.
BRING IT ON.
MANY SACRIFICES WERE MADE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ERA.

THE SEKIHO ARMY WAS BRANDED WITH THE TITLE OF
A "FALSE LOYALIST ARMY" AND BURIED IN THE DEPTHS OF HISTORY.

AFTER THAT, SOUZOU'S HEAD WAS SECRETLY BURIED AT AOYAMA CEMETERY.

DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF HIS GRANDSON, KAMETARO KIMURA,
SOUZOU'S NAME WAS CLEARED. HE WAS PROMOTED TO MAJOR FIFTH RANK.

THEN IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SHOWA 4 (1929) SOUZOU SAGARA
WAS ENSHRINED AT YASUKUNI SHRINE AND STILL LIES THERE TODAY.